U.S. Application No. 09/629,993 — Filed: August 1, 2000

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Objection is made to missing reference numerals on original drawings in FIGs. 5, 9, and 24. Appropriate reference numerals have been added to new submitted drawings for FIGs. 5, 9 and 24. Applicant's wish to point out that reference numbers 18b and 20b are described on page 11, line 17 of the specification.

2. Claims 1-6 and 9-21 are rejected as being anticipated by Crean.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the image processing is performed on rasterized color separated contone gray level image data. It is respectfully submitted that Crean fails to teach or suggest providing rasterized color separated contone gray level image data that has a plurality of pixels; each of the pixels having a halftone microdot density, the microdot existing within one of a plurality of halftoning planes, wherein the halftoning planes are indicative of an intensity value for the pixels; forming a plurality of tiles from the microdots in accordance with a screen angle and a line ruling from a halftone screen used to convert the pixels into the microdots, wherein each of the tiles comprises a repetitive sequence of microdots; associating each of the microdots within the tiles by a coordinate position as well as the density value; storing the tiles into a buffer having a length and a width; and placing into the buffer an offset determined by the tile geometry, wherein the offset acts as a pointer to read data out offset by a predetermined amount in order to generate the repetitive sequence of microdots; and reading the buffer to retrieve stored image data comprising density value.

Claim 15 has been cancelled, thereby rendering it's rejection moot.

Independent Claim 22 has been added to clarify that the image processing is performed on rasterized color separated contone gray level image data. It is respectfully submitted that Crean fails to teach or suggest an image processing system comprising a raster image processor for providing rasterized color separated contone gray level image data representing a plurality of pixels and a halftone processor for establishing a

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coordinate value of a current pixel to be rendered and based thereon rendering the current pixel into output halftone gray level pixel values represented in a plurality of halftoning planes.

3.   Claims 7-8 are rejected as being obvious over Crean in view of Tai.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Crean or Tai, either singularly or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention for the reasons identified above.

This Application is now believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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